

Board Approval Date: June, 2012

Course Title: America in the Modern World

Credit / Hours: Semester (.5 credit)

Course Description:

This PA Standards aligned course is designed to introduce the student to the geography, history, economics, politics, and culture of the contemporary world since 1945. This half credit (one semester) elective course covers contemporary issues as they relate to America and historical events of the last half-century. Issues to be covered will include but are not limited to social movements, political ideologies, military conflicts, globalization, the role of media in the modern world, and terrorism. Taught in a seminar format, students will research and discuss the historical significance of topics to answer the question "why does this matter?"

Learning Activities / Modes of Assessment:

Mapping the world (drawing and labeling)	Modern Issues Report
Map labeling and discussion	Terror Group Report
Thematic map labeling and discussion	Group Projects
Latitude and longitude	Classroom Discussions
"Where in the World"	Debates
Google Earth tour	Research
Country cereal box	Quizzes/Written Assessments
Ideology for a day	Projects
Cold War Reports	
Cold War Learning Activities	

Instructional Resources:

Atlases and Teachers Atlas guide	Power Library
Supplemental Geography and History textbooks	Appropriate Internet sites
Issues in our Modern World vol. I & II	The United States Archives
Google earth	"20 th Century" video series
Power Points	"The Century" video series
Newspapers, magazines, posters	"Terrorism" video series
EBSCO online database	

Course Pacing Guide

Course Unit : America in the Modern World

(Topic)	Length of Instruction (Days/Periods)
1. Geography	12 Class periods
2. American History in the Modern Era (1945-1991)	13 Class periods
3. The New World Order	7 Class periods
4. Global Issues in the Modern World	8 Class periods